

His Ways Work

Submitted by Elder Carol Richardson

Luke 6:37

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

We are living in times where it would be so easy to sit in judgement of the actions of so many.

Over the years we've been witness too, or experienced ourselves, many things that caused a myriad of emotions within us. Hate crimes; being confronted by a “Karen” road rage; loss of job, skipped over for promotion; loss of relationships, etc... The list could go on and on. If we aren't careful though, some emotions can have a negative impact and infect the heart of the believer if left unchecked. Unchecked emotions like hate, anger, jealousy, and strife could dictate how we respond to both situations and people. We could lose our sense of compassion, mercy, and love for one another. From time to time, we will all be confronted with an opportunity to judge the actions of others. During this season of our lives let's be more reflective on the mind of Christ. What would Jesus' response be when confronted?

At the time of our devotional scripture, Jesus had spent all day teaching on the mountainside what we know as the Beatitudes. These were instructions on how we are to live and how we are to give (serve). The reality is that He wouldn't be asking us to do what He Himself wasn't willing to do. When thinking about this scripture my thoughts immediately went to the story in the Gospel of John, the 8th chapter, where the scribes and Pharisees brought before Jesus the woman caught in adultery. Because they were testing Him, they quoted to Him the Law of Moses that required them to stone the woman. Jesus' first response was not to respond. They persisted and that's when He said, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” In the end, they walked away, and Jesus was alone with the woman. He asked her did anyone condemn her. She told Him no. He then said that He doesn't condemn her either so go and sin no more. Jesus practiced what He preached. He didn't condemn her but looked beyond her faults and provided what she needed most, “Love” A kind of love that transforms lives. That's the mind of Christ!!

I want to encourage someone today that doing it God's way is not only good for you, but it does good for others. Many of us can testify about how God didn't condemn our sinful acts but loved us through them and look at us today!! So, let's not judge one another but be like Jesus!! Let's pray for each other through our struggles and love each other through our transformations.